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***'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'***

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 2,3,4 and 5

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. My priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school and now more than ever, this remains our primary focus. I know you've seen in the news that schools may reopen on 1st June to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils if the government thinks it's safe. I can appreciate that many of you have feelings of apprehension, worry and possibly are fearful. All these feelings are very normal during this current climate and you are by no means alone in having such feelings.

I thought it was important to try and clear up any misunderstandings you may have. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> June (if it is safe to do so) children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 will be able to return to school in very small groups. However, for the other year groups (Years 2,3,4 and 5) things are going to be staying the same for the time being.

The home school learning packs and whole school topic packs will be continuing and will be sent out every two weeks like they are currently. Along with other website links and ideas to support home learning. Although this situation is not ideal, the safety of our community must remain the most important thing.

It was mentioned during the latest announcement, again if it is safe to do so, that there is a possibility and I stress the word possibility, of children from all year groups being reintroduced into school in the last month of this school year, however we ask you to carefully watch this space until more guidance is available to us. It is a very unsettling time for us all but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready, if it's safe for our school to reopen, in the coming weeks. **However, there will be no pressure from the school to send your child in, we recognise that in this current uncertain situation we all find ourselves in, you know your children and personal situation best.** If this planned reopening to all children does go ahead and you would prefer to keep your children at home, you will not be penalised for doing so, as the home school learning will continue and no fines will be issued.

We will keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

Getting to grips with the coronavirus pandemic and what we should be doing to mitigate the risk of spreading infection in a school environment, as you can imagine, will prove an extremely difficult and most probably an impossible task. By increasing groups of people, be they children or adults, this then increases the number of variables that no one person or organisation can control and obviously increases the risk of working with those who may have been exposed to the virus. To help us all remain safe and continue to provide an education for our children, we will continue to assess any potential risks that should be mitigated before reopening, such as risk of infection or unsafe premises.

While I appreciate that there will be a wide range of different views about how we should be responding and what action we should take, I hope you will appreciate the complexities involved, not least that a large community of children will inevitably be the hardest group to socially distance. I will provide further information as soon as I am able to do so.

Once again thank you for your continued understanding and support at this very problematic time.

Stay safe and well.

*Mr Marsh-Ballard*